

VZCZCXYZ0004  
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHEK #1215 3440932  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 090932Z DEC 08  
FM AMEMBASSY BISHKEK  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1576  
INFO RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC  
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA 0210

UNCLAS BISHKEK 001215

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SCA/CEN (GORKOWSKI)

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [ENRG](#) [TRGY](#) [BEXP](#) [BTIO](#) [KG](#)  
SUBJECT: NO OFFICIAL KYRGYZ INTEREST IN NUCLEAR POWER

REF: STATE 127423

¶1. In response to reftel inquiry, Post is not aware of any official Kyrgyz interest in developing nuclear power. No nuclear power facilities exist in the Kyrgyz Republic. There has been some academic discussion of the topic; however, Post has not learned of any consideration of this option among Kyrgyz government officials.

¶2. During the Soviet era, uranium was mined in the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic. However, no uranium is currently mined, and the country is working with international donors to develop strategies to clean up uranium tailings sites. The United Nations is seeking options that might include "recultivation" of uranium tailings sites to process any worthwhile contents.

¶3. Although the Kyrgyz Republic is currently experiencing power shortages, Kyrgyz officials are looking to expand hydropower capacity, as well as to coal and renewable energy as methods for generating additional electricity. Cost factors as well as seismic activity are two of the reasons why nuclear power plants would not be suitable for the Kyrgyz Republic.  
LITZENBERGER